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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

December 5, 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HONORABLE GEORGE P. SHULTZ
The Secretary of State

THE HONORABLE CASPAR W. WEINBERGER
The Secretary of Defense

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM J. CASEY
The Director of Central Intelligence

THE HONORABLE JEANE J. KIRKPATRICK
The United States Representative
to the United Nations

GENERAL JOHN W. VESSEY, JR.
The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

SUBJECT: National Security Decision Directive (NSDD)
on Lebanon (U)

The President has signed the attached NSDD to enhance the security of our forces in Lebanon. (U)

With regard to the Rules of Engagement, the President has carefully considered the views of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs of Staff. His direction leaves the content and implementation of changes to these ROE to the military chain of command requiring only that they "... provide for an effective self-defense against the range of foreseeable threats." Further with regard to the concept of vigorous self-defense of the USMNF, the specific criteria governing the selection of appropriate targets for responses to hostile acts against the MNF should be determined by the responsible military commanders, consistent with the broad parameters provided in the attached Decision Directive. (TS)

As these decisions are implemented, the Departments of State and Defense should jointly undertake consultations with the Congressional leadership. Moreover, the Department of State should promptly undertake consultations with the other MNF contributors to apprise them of these decisions and the underlying reasons for them. (S)

FOR THE PRESIDENT:


Robert C. McFarlane

cc: Vice President
Attachment

Tab A - National Security Decision Directive 117

TS 830213

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NATIONAL SECURITY
DECISION DIRECTIVE 117

December 5, 1983

Lebanon (U)

Pursuant to the December 1, 1983 NSPG meeting on this subject, the following decisions will govern our next steps in Lebanon: (S)

-- The decisions directed in NSDD 111 bearing on our diplomatic and military measures for Lebanon are reaffirmed. This specifically includes measures to assure the Rules of Engagement provide for an effective self-defense against the range of foreseeable threats. (TS)

-- The U. S. contingent of the MNF supported by naval surface and tactical air forces will pursue a policy of vigorous self-defense against all attacks from any hostile quarter. Responsive attacks will be used to destroy targets originating fire if this can be done with minimum collateral damage. (TS)

-- In the event the above action can not be carried out due to risk of collateral damage or lack of precise information on the source of fire, destructive fire will be directed against discrete military targets in unpopulated areas which are organizationally associated with the firing units. (TS)

-- Moreover, the United States will insist that the Government of Lebanon undertake a more aggressive security posture in and around Beirut against radical Lebanese and foreign elements which pose a security risk to the MNF. (TS)

Ronald Reagan

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